

white photo of the Lower East Side of New York, where he was born in a tenement. It was in a tenement, too, where his mother died when he was still a child. My grandfather, poor and unskilled, put my father and my uncle in an orphanage, where—with some Dickensian spells with foster families—he was raised.

He was a Depression kid, my father. In some ways, though, the worst of times were the best of times for him. He had a job. He had a car. Soon, he had a wife and she, of course, worked, too. The two of them virtually never stopped working. Even in retirement, my father took jobs. He went door to door for a polling firm. He parked cars in West Palm Beach, where he had "retired" with my mother. He worked as a doorman in a fancy Palm Beach high-rise. In some sense, he did this because the Depression was, for him, always lurking nearby, but also because he found dignity in work.

Some of this is colorful, I know, but it is not why my father was exceptional. It's because he was a good man. Not once—not ever—did I know him to cheat: not in business, not on his wife, not on his friends and never on his children. I know of no one he hurt, no one he slighted, no one he abandoned. The great men I have spent a lifetime around—the politicians, the statesmen, the rich, the powerful, the creative—can make no such claim. They always say they had to break some eggs to make their omelet. My father made no omelet. But he broke no eggs, either.

I have written this before, but it is worth saying again: My father's sort of goodness is rare. As he lay dying, as we talked about his life, he expressed no regrets. Not from him came reservations about how he neglected his children in favor of work, how he spent too much money, how he cared too much about the appearance of things and little about their substance. He did not understand men who were not charitable, who exchanged wives as they do cars, who would slight a child to score another business deal. He had his dreams, but the overriding one was to lead an honorable life.

To be perfectly truthful, we did not always agree—not on certain issues (Israel, for instance) and not on how one should live one's life. I could not—I have not—been him. He did not set standards, he lived them—and deep into my career I kept thinking that some of the things I wrote and some of the things I did were like a bad report card I was bringing home from school. His disapproval, sometimes not even stated, was concussive. I reeled.

He died in his sleep. He died at home, still tended by my mother and my sister, Judith, and the remarkable women whose chosen work it is to care for the dying. He was never in pain and he was alert almost to the end, still getting the joke, still not wanting to go. He was, I tell you, the most extraordinary of ordinary men, what in Yiddish is called a mensch—not a great man but, much rarer still a good one. There is nothing greater.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 2003

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2003

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support, for H.R. 3039, legislation introduced today by my colleagues and myself to expand opportunities in our great na-

tion's higher education system. I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this important bill and helping to increase access to postsecondary education.

For nearly four decades, the Higher Education Act has provided opportunities to students throughout the nation as they worked toward a postsecondary education. Now, in the technologically-driven economy of the 21st century, a college education is more important than ever. That's why the bill I am offering is so important; it will help remove barriers and ensure students have the opportunities they need to meet their educational goals.

The cost of college in America has risen rapidly over the past few decades, and this has made achieving the dream of a college education a difficult proposition for many students. However, though college costs are a significant impediment for many aspiring college students, they are but one of many unnecessary barriers to a college education in America. Expanding opportunities for students by removing these barriers will help increase access to college.

By encouraging innovative solutions such as distance learning and the use of advanced technology in the classroom, schools can provide non-traditional college students with a better chance to succeed. I also believe addressing the needs of America's minority serving institutions must be a priority, because these valuable institutions play an essential role in providing opportunities for many students.

There are several areas of particular importance in this legislation. Each of these provisions serves to break down barriers, remove obstacles, increase flexibility, and ultimately expand opportunities within higher education.

This legislation allows for fair and equitable treatment of all institutions, removing the arbitrary rules imposed on some and not others and providing all institutions the ability to compete for federal grants and better serve their students.

An additional unnecessary barrier in current law that is restricting opportunities for students and flexibility for schools is the so-called 50 percent rule. This rule arbitrarily restricts the number of courses that can be offered and the number of students that can be enrolled in courses offered via telecommunications. While this outdated rule was implemented to provide safeguards, times have changed and technology makes online education an important tool in achieving success for many non-traditional students. This bill takes the important step of repealing the 50 percent rule, while maintaining stringent requirements for quality to ensure the integrity of distance education programs is monitored and maintained.

The Expanding Opportunities in Higher Education Act also seeks to strengthen programs such as TRIO and GEAR UP which provide critical student support services. By providing these programs with the flexibility they need to meet the unique needs of the student populations they serve, programs such as these will expand opportunities and allow students to thrive.

Though the legislation I am offering includes many more important reforms, there is one more area of particular importance that I would like to address. Minority Serving Institutions offer tremendous educational opportunity, and I'm pleased that the Expanding Opportunities in Higher Education Act would

make important reforms to allow these institutions the freedom they need to help their students succeed in higher education.

Like all institutions, Minority Serving Institutions must advance their technological capabilities with the changing times and advancement in technology. This bill would allow Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities among others to use a portion of their funds to expand Internet capabilities and other distance learning capabilities, encouraging the use of advanced technology and expanding opportunities.

The Expanding Opportunities in Higher Education Act builds upon the significant reforms for Minority Serving Institutions made in the Ready to Teach Act earlier this year. That legislation created a program to establish Centers of Excellence at high quality Minority Serving Institutions to strengthen and improve teacher training, expand recruitment of minorities in the teaching profession, and provide scholarships to help future teachers pay the cost of completing a teacher training program.

Taken together, these and the many reforms in the bill will help to renew higher education and expand opportunities, helping millions of students and the institutions which serve them. I'm pleased to speak in strong support of this legislation, and encourage my colleagues to join me.

J. STEPHEN HORN POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill that names the Post Office in Signal Hill, California, after one of the most distinguished individuals to have served in this House, Congressman Steve Horn. Congressman Horn retired this past January after a lifetime of public service. He was known as an independent, intellectually honest individual who brought to his work a sharp mind, remarkably broad experience, and an outstanding understanding and respect for the needs and abilities of every person.

Congressman Horn has worked in the public policy arena throughout his life. He began his professional career as an aide for President Eisenhower's secretary of labor, James P. Mitchell. He then worked as a legislative assistant to former California Senator Tom Kuchel and served as a senior fellow at the Brookings Institute, Dean of American University and President of California State University at Long Beach from 1970 to 1988. After leading the University for eleven years, he was elected to Congress where his depth of knowledge of government, public administration, education, the arts, and community needs enabled him to provide valuable leadership to his colleagues and this body. Steve served his constituents with diligence, effectiveness, and honor. I wish Steve and his wife Nini the best in retirement.